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U.S. DISTRICT COURT
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U.S. Department of Justice

Carmen M. Ortiz
United States Attorney
District of Massachusetts

Main Reception: (617) 748-3100

John Joseph Moakley United States Courthouse
1 Courthouse Way
Suite 9200
Boston, Massachusetts 02210

October 14, 2014

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Rudolph F. Miller, Esq.
75 Adams Street
Milton, MA 02186
617-282-5600
email: rfmillerlaw@msn.com

Re: United States v. Mel Steele

Dear Mr. Miller:

This letter sets forth the Agreement between the United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts ("the U.S. Attorney") and your client, Mel Steele ("Defendant"), in the above-referenced case. The Agreement is as follows:

1. Change of Plea

At the earliest practicable date, Defendant shall waive indictment and plead guilty to the Information attached to this Agreement charging him with: Making a False Statement, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1001 and 2. Defendant expressly and unequivocally admits that he committed the crime charged in Count One of the Information, did so knowingly and willfully, and is in fact guilty of that offense. Defendant also agrees to waive venue, to waive any applicable statute of limitations, and to waive any legal or procedural defects in the Information.

2. Penalties

Defendant faces the following maximum penalties on Count One of the Information: incarceration for five years; supervised release for three years; a fine of \$250,000, or twice the gross gain/loss, whichever is greater; and a mandatory special assessment of \$100.

Defendant also recognizes that pleading guilty may have consequences with respect to Defendant's immigration status if Defendant is not a citizen of the United States. Under federal

law, a broad range of crimes are removable offenses, including the offense to which Defendant is pleading guilty. Removal and other immigration consequences are the subject of a separate proceeding, however, and Defendant understands that no one, including defense counsel and the District Court, can predict to a certainty the effect of this conviction on Defendant's immigration status. Defendant nevertheless affirms his decision to plead guilty regardless of any immigration consequences that this plea may entail, even if the consequence is Defendant's automatic removal from the United States.

3. Sentencing Guidelines

The sentence to be imposed upon Defendant is within the discretion of the District Court ("Court"), subject to the statutory maximum penalties set forth above and the provisions of the Sentencing Reform Act, and the advisory United States Sentencing Guidelines ("USSG" or "Guidelines"). While the Court may impose a sentence up to and including the statutory maximum term of imprisonment and statutory maximum fine, it must consult and take into account the USSG and the other factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. §3553(a) in imposing a sentence.

The parties agree that Defendant's total offense level under the USSG (prior to any adjustment for acceptance of responsibility) is calculated as follows:

- in accordance with USSG §2B1.1(a)(2), Defendant's base offense level is 6, because the offense of conviction has a statutory maximum term of imprisonment of less than 20 years.

The U.S. Attorney and Defendant agree that there is no basis for a departure from the USSG or for a sentence outside the USSG under the factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. §3553(a). Accordingly, neither the U.S. Attorney nor Defendant will seek a departure from, or a sentence outside, the USSG.

Based on Defendant's prompt acceptance of personal responsibility for the offense of conviction in this case, and information known to the U.S. Attorney at this time, the U.S. Attorney agrees to recommend that the Court reduce by two levels Defendant's adjusted offense level under USSG §3E1.1.

The U.S. Attorney reserves the right not to recommend a reduction under USSG §3E1.1 if, at any time between Defendant's execution of this Agreement and sentencing, Defendant:

- (a) Fails to admit a complete factual basis for the plea;
- (b) Fails to truthfully admit Defendant's conduct in the offense of conviction;
- (c) Falsely denies, or frivolously contests, relevant conduct for which Defendant is accountable under USSG §1B1.3;
- (d) Fails to provide truthful information about Defendant's financial status;

- (e) Gives false or misleading testimony in any proceeding relating to the criminal conduct charged in this case and any relevant conduct for which Defendant is accountable under USSG §1B1.3;
- (f) Engages in acts that form a basis for finding that Defendant has obstructed or impeded the administration of justice under USSG §3C1.1;
- (g) Intentionally fails to appear in Court or violates any condition of release;
- (h) Commits a crime;
- (i) Transfers any asset protected under any provision of this Agreement; or
- (j) Attempts to withdraw Defendant's guilty plea.

Defendant understands and acknowledges that Defendant may not withdraw his plea of guilty if, for any of the reasons listed above, the U.S. Attorney does not recommend that Defendant receive a reduction in offense level for acceptance of responsibility. Defendant also understands and acknowledges that, in addition to declining to recommend an acceptance-of-responsibility adjustment, the U.S. Attorney may seek an upward adjustment pursuant to USSG §3C1.1 if Defendant obstructs justice after the date of this Agreement.

Nothing in this Agreement affects the U.S. Attorney's obligation to provide the Court and the U.S. Probation Office with accurate and complete information regarding this case.

4. Sentence Recommendation

The U.S. Attorney agrees to recommend the following sentence before the Court:

- (a) a sentence within the Guidelines sentencing range as calculated by the parties in Paragraph 3;
- (b) a fine within the Guidelines sentencing range as calculated by the parties in Paragraph 3, unless the Court finds that Defendant is not able and, even with the use of a reasonable installment schedule, is not likely to become able to pay a fine;
- (c) 36 months of supervised release; and
- (d) a mandatory special assessment of \$100;

Defendant agrees to provide the U.S. Attorney expert reports, motions, memoranda of law and documentation of any kind on which Defendant intends to rely at sentencing not later than 21 days before sentencing. Any basis for sentencing as to which Defendant has not

provided the U.S. Attorney all such items at least 21 days before sentencing shall be deemed waived.

5. Payment of Mandatory Special Assessment

Defendant agrees to pay the mandatory special assessment to the Clerk of the Court on or before the date of sentencing, unless Defendant establishes to the satisfaction of the Court that Defendant is financially unable to do so.

6. Protection of Assets for Payment of Fine

Defendant agrees not to transfer, or authorize the transfer of, any asset that has been restrained by Order of the Court in this case.

Defendant agrees not to transfer, or authorize the transfer of any other asset in which Defendant has an interest without prior express written consent of the U.S. Attorney, except for:

- (a) Assets subject to superior, secured interests of innocent third parties, in which Defendant has an equity interest of less than \$5,000;
- (b) Ordinary living expenses necessary to house, clothe, transport, and feed Defendant and those to whom Defendant owes a legal duty of support, so long as such assets do not exceed \$5,000 per month; and
- (c) Attorney's fees incurred in connection with this criminal case.

This prohibition shall be effective as of the date of Defendant's execution of this Agreement and continue until the fine ordered by the Court at sentencing is satisfied in full.

7. Waiver of Rights to Appeal and to Bring Future Challenge

- (a) Defendant has conferred with his attorney and understands that he has the right to challenge both his conviction and his sentence (including any orders relating to supervised release, fines, forfeiture, and restitution) on direct appeal. Defendant also understands that, in some circumstances, Defendant may be able to argue in a future proceeding (collateral or otherwise), such as pursuant to a motion under 28 U.S.C. §2255, 28 U.S.C. §2241, or 18 U.S.C. §3582(c), that Defendant's conviction should be set aside or Defendant's sentence (including any orders relating to supervised release, fines, forfeiture, and restitution) set aside or reduced.
- (b) Defendant waives any right to challenge Defendant's conviction on direct appeal or in a future proceeding (collateral or otherwise).

- (c) Defendant agrees not to file a direct appeal or challenge in a future proceeding (collateral or otherwise) any sentence of imprisonment of 6 months or less or any orders relating to supervised release, fines, forfeiture, and restitution. This provision is binding even if the Court's Guidelines analysis is different from that set forth in this Agreement.
- (d) The U.S. Attorney likewise agrees that, regardless of the analysis employed by the Court, the U.S. Attorney will not appeal any imprisonment sentence of 6 months or more.
- (e) Notwithstanding the previous sub-paragraphs, Defendant reserves the right to claim that Defendant's lawyer was ineffective.

8. Other Post-Sentence Events

- (a) In the event that, notwithstanding the waiver provision of sub-paragraph 7(c), Defendant appeals or challenges in a future proceeding (collateral or otherwise) Defendant's sentence, the U.S. Attorney reserves the right to argue the correctness of the sentence imposed by the Court (in addition to arguing that any appeal or future challenge (collateral or otherwise) is waived as a result of the waiver in sub-paragraph 7(c)).
- (b) If, notwithstanding the waiver provision of sub-paragraph 7(c), Defendant seeks re-sentencing, Defendant agrees not to seek to be re-sentenced with the benefit of any change to the Criminal History Category that the Court calculated at the time of Defendant's original sentencing, except to the extent that Defendant has been found actually factually innocent of a prior crime.
- (c) In the event of a re-sentencing following an appeal from or future challenge (collateral or otherwise) to Defendant's sentence, the U.S. Attorney reserves the right to seek a departure from and a sentence outside the USSG if, and to the extent, necessary to reinstate the sentence the U.S. Attorney advocated at Defendant's initial sentencing pursuant to this Agreement.

9. Court Not Bound by Agreement

The parties' sentencing recommendations and their respective calculations under the USSG are not binding upon the U.S. Probation Office or the Court. Within the maximum sentence Defendant faces under the applicable law, the sentence to be imposed is within the sole discretion of the Court. Defendant's plea will be tendered pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(c)(1)(B). Defendant may not withdraw his plea of guilty regardless of what sentence is imposed, or because the U.S. Probation Office or the Court declines to follow the parties' USSG calculations or recommendations. Should the Court decline to follow the U.S. Attorney's

U.S.S.G. calculations or recommendations, the U.S. Attorney reserves the right to defend the Court's calculations and sentence in any direct appeal or future challenge (collateral or otherwise).

10. Civil Liability

By entering into this Agreement, the U.S. Attorney does not compromise any civil liability, including but not limited to any tax liability, Defendant may have incurred or may incur as a result of Defendant's conduct and plea of guilty to the charges specified in Paragraph 1 of this Agreement.

11. Rejection of Plea by Court

Should Defendant's guilty plea not be accepted by the Court for whatever reason, or later be withdrawn on Defendant's motion, this Agreement shall be null and void at the option of the U.S. Attorney.

12. Breach of Agreement

If the U.S. Attorney determines that Defendant has failed to comply with any provision of this Agreement, has violated any condition of Defendant's pretrial release, or has committed any crime following Defendant's execution of this Agreement, the U.S. Attorney may, at her sole option, be released from her commitments under this Agreement in their entirety by notifying Defendant, through counsel or otherwise, in writing. The U.S. Attorney may also pursue all remedies available to her under the law, regardless whether she elects to be released from her commitments under this Agreement. Further, the U.S. Attorney may pursue any and all charges that have been, or are to be, dismissed pursuant to this Agreement. Defendant recognizes that his breach of any obligation under this Agreement shall not give rise to grounds for withdrawal of Defendant's guilty plea, but will give the U.S. Attorney the right to use against Defendant before any grand jury, at any trial or hearing, or for sentencing purposes, any statements that Defendant may make, and any information, materials, documents or objects that Defendant may provide to the government subsequent to this Agreement, or pursuant to the proffer agreement dated September 17, 2014, without any limitation. In this regard, Defendant hereby waives any defense to any charges that Defendant might otherwise have based upon any statute of limitations, the constitutional protection against pre-indictment delay, or the Speedy Trial Act.

13. Who Is Bound By Agreement

This Agreement is limited to the U.S. Attorney for the District of Massachusetts, and cannot and does not bind the Attorney General of the United States or any other federal, state or local prosecutive authorities.

14. Complete Agreement

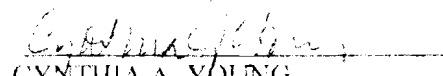
This letter contains the complete and only agreement between the parties relating to the disposition of this case. No promises, representations or agreements have been made other than those set forth in this letter and in the proffer letter dated September 17, 2014. This Agreement supersedes prior understandings, if any, of the parties, whether written or oral, with the sole exception of those contained in the proffer letter dated September 17, 2014 (subject to Paragraph 12, above). This Agreement can be modified or supplemented only in a written memorandum signed by the parties or on the record in court.

If this letter accurately reflects the agreement between the U.S. Attorney and Defendant, please have Defendant sign the Acknowledgment of Agreement below. Please also sign below as Witness. Return the original of this letter to Assistant U.S. Attorney Dustin Chao.

Very truly yours,

CARMEN M. ORTIZ
United States Attorney

By:


CYNTHIA A. YOUNG
Chief, Criminal Division
JAMES D. HERBERT
Deputy Chief, Criminal Division

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF PLEA AGREEMENT

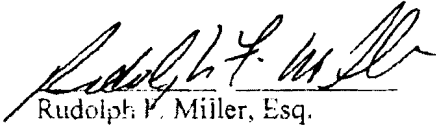
I have read this letter in its entirety and discussed it with my attorney. I hereby acknowledge that it fully sets forth my agreement with the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Massachusetts. I further state that no additional promises or representations have been made to me by any official of the United States in connection with this matter, and that I have received no prior offers to resolve this case. I understand the crime to which I have agreed to plead guilty, the maximum penalties for that offense and the Sentencing Guideline penalties potentially applicable to it. I am satisfied with the legal representation provided to me by my attorney. We have had sufficient time to meet and discuss my case. We have discussed the charge against me, possible defenses I might have, the terms of this Plea Agreement and whether I should go to trial. I am entering into this Agreement freely, voluntarily, and knowingly because I am guilty of the offense to which I am pleading guilty, and I believe this Agreement is in my best interest.



Mel Steele
Defendant

Date: 10/21/2014

I certify that Mel Steele has read this Agreement and that we have discussed its meaning. I believe he understands the Agreement and is entering into the Agreement freely, voluntarily, and knowingly. I also certify that the U.S. Attorney has not extended any other offers to resolve this matter.



Rudolph F. Miller, Esq.
Attorney for Defendant

Date: 10/21/2014